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Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
New York, 21-30 August 2007
Item 17 of the provisional agenda*
Toponymic education and practice and international cooperation

Course in toponymy

Submitted by France**

Summary***

In response to the appeal made by vice-chairman Brahim Atoui at the twenty-third session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, on the topic of other toponymic issues, and in response to the invitation of the coordinator of the group on training, the French-speaking Division participated in the international seminar at Tunis last April.

Two members of the French-speaking Division took part in the International Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, held at Tunis and organized by the Regional Centre for Remote Sensing of the North African States under the auspices of the Group of Experts: one, a Canadian, to explain place-naming procedure, terminology, character systems, and problems raised by exonyms; the other, a Frenchwoman, to present transcription systems in use in sub-Saharan Africa, essential instructions for collecting toponyms in the field, and their eventual processing into databases.

Additionally, field experience has shown the usefulness of establishing simple principles that can be implemented by all, as well as the need for a charter and a committee on toponymy in order to develop recommendations for the dissemination of toponymic information at the local, national and international levels.

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*** The full text of this document is being issued in French only as document E/CONF.98/117/Add.1.

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